



# HF Happenings



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
1925 - 2015

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

No 647

March 2015

## ARRL International DX SSB Contest

The ARRL International DX SSB Contest will be on the air over the weekend of the 7 and 8 March on 160 to 10 metres. It is a 48-hour contest and the DX must work the USA and Canada. Find all the rules at [www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

## The Africa All Mode International DX Contest

The objective of the Africa All Mode International DX Contest is to stimulate contesting from Africa. All participating stations worldwide may work any entity during the contest period, but QSOs with radio amateurs from Africa are encouraged as reflected in the higher points being awarded in the scoring mechanism. African DXCC entities are defined as those valid per the ARRL DXCC AF listing published at the date and time of the contest.



The contest will run from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 12:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March 2015. Both single and multi-operator stations may operate for the entire 24-hour period. There are no mandated breaks in operating time required. CW, RTTY and SSB may be used on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres

The exchange is the RS(T) report followed by an incremental serial number commencing at 001. Changing modes or bands does not necessitate different serial number ranges. A complete exchange, consisting of an

RS(T) and serial number, must be logged for each QSO.

All QSOs with African entities count 10 points and all other QSOs count 1 point. No paper entries will be accepted for the contest or checking purposes. Entries must be submitted in Cabrillo format only and be received no later than 30 March 2015. Entries must be sent to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za). Read the rules about scoring, multipliers and power on page 50 of the 2015 Contest Manual [www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp) and/or [www.zs4bfn.co.za/bluebook.asp](http://www.zs4bfn.co.za/bluebook.asp)

## RSGB Commonwealth Contest

The RSGB Commonwealth Contest runs from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March with CW only on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. Activity is normally concentrated in the lower 30 kHz of each band. However, entrants must observe band-plans and contest-preferred segments, so no operation must take place below 3 510 kHz or above 14 060 kHz. The exchange is a RST report and a serial number. HQ stations will additionally send HQ, which must be logged. Find all the information at [www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/rberu.shtml](http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/rberu.shtml)

## VHF/UHF Contest

The March leg of the South African Radio League VHF/UHF contest takes to the air over the weekend of 21 and 22 March, starting at 10:00 UTC on Saturday and ending 24 hours later. It is CW, digital, FM and SSB on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 cm and higher.

You can take part as a Base Station, a Field Station, a Club / Multi operator station or a 4 hour limited category station. These categories are further divided into sub-categories - 1) Unlimited - include both digital and analogue operation. "Analogue" would include FM, SSB and CW. 2) limited A category - analogue only and 3) limited D category - digital only.

Contacts must be fully two-way. Stations shall give signal reports as well as their location as latitude and longitude or full six-digit Maidenhead Locator. Operators that participate as operators in a field or multi-operator should not be allowed to make additional contacts using their own call sign. Stations should not be operated under more than one call except in the case where the equipment is normally shared and operated by family members.

Self-Spotting will be allowed, e.g. you may announce that you are calling CQ on 144,250 on a repeater frequency or on internet logger. The contact itself or any information related to the contact must be unassisted. NO information can be sent between stations to assist with completing the contact.

No station may be worked twice on the same band; however, a station can be worked in both analogue and digital modes on the same band.

The contest exchange consists of the call signs, signal report and six-digit grid locator. All the exchange information shall be copied at the time of the QSO. No points will be forfeited if a non-competing station cannot provide a grid locator, or any other information that may be required. However, the receiving operator shall receive and record sufficient information to be able to calculate the score.

Get all the details on page 26 of the SARL Blue Book

[www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp) and/or [www.zs4bfn.co.za/bluebook.asp](http://www.zs4bfn.co.za/bluebook.asp)

### 5 MHz activity weekend

The South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend will be held on 28 and

### March 2015

- 1 - SARL Hamnet Contest
- 7 and 8 - ARRL International DX Contest
- 8 - International Women's Day (not in South Africa); Cape Argus PnP Cycle Tour
- 13 - Africa Scout Day
- 14 and 15 - Africa All Modes Contest; RSGB Commonwealth Contest
- 17 - St Patrick's Day
- 18 to 24 - Scifest Africa, Grahamstown
- 20 - Autumn Equinox; SARL 90 Open Day for ICASA and the Media
- 21 - Human Rights Day; Hindi New Year; SARL 90 Open Day; Oude Kraal Mutton and Beerfest
- 21 and 22 - SARL VHF/UHF Contest
- 22 - World Water Day
- 23 - World Meteorological day
- 25 - Inland Schools close
- 28 - SARL@Home - DXing and Contesting with Chris, ZS6EZ
- 28 and 29 - CQ WPX SSB; SARL 5 MHz Activity Weekend
- 29 - Palm Sunday

### April

- 1 - Coastal Schools close; 61st Annual Poisson d'Avril Contest
- 2 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
- 2 to 12 - Stars of Sandstone Festival, Ficksburg
- 3 - Good Friday
- 3 to 11 - KKNK, Oudtshoorn
- 4 - RaDAR Challenge; Two Oceans Marathon
- 4 to 11 - Pesach
- 5 - Easter Sunday
- 6 - Family day
- 9 - Closing date May RAE
- 11 - Autumn QRP Contest
- 13 - All Schools open
- 17 to 19 - SARL National Convention
- 18 - World Amateur Radio Day
- 22 - Earth Day
- 25 - HABEX-10 launch

29 March. The first slot will be run each day from 06:00 - 08:00 Central African Time with the second slot from 18:00 to 22:00 Central African Time. More details to follow.

### CQ WPX SSB Contest

The CQ WPX SSB Contest is a 48-hour event over the weekend of the 28 and 29



March with activity on 160 to 10 metres. Read all the information at [www.cqwp.com/](http://www.cqwp.com/)

### Results of the National Field Day

The contest committee ONLY received eleven logs for the February leg of the National Field Day; two of these logs are check logs.

#### Class A - Multi-operator Field Station

- 1<sup>st</sup> Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 104 640 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 90 828 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 61 452 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sasolburg ARC, ZS50SRK, 38 016 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB, 21 744 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bloemfontein ARC, ZS90SARL, 15 204 points

#### Class B - Multi-operator Field Station, QRP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Potchefstroom ARC, ZS6POT, 33 534 points

#### Class F - General Stations

- 1<sup>st</sup> Graham, ZS6GL, 560 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mario, ZS6ARQ, 400 points

Check logs were received from Bruce, ZS5XT, and Joop, ZS6JP.

Congratulations to the winners.

I received a log from one Club marked as a check log because most of the club members thought valentines day is more important than Field Day! Yes, can you believe it? Ag siestog!!

I did not take the log as a check log; there were radio amateurs who were willing to take part in the Field Day and not hide behind the 'valentine's day' excuse.

Then I worked a number of Clubs who did not submit their logs! In addition, I did miss a number of the regular Clubs who were not on the air.

We may have to work on the dates for the February 2016 National Field Day - valentines day is on Sunday 14 February and everybody is going to be busy the Saturday evening!

You should treat your partner every-day, not only on 14 February!

### ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals

The ARRL is asking members to comment by 19 April on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 metres, excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400-member comments in response to a March 2014 solicitation that sought suggestions on how to use the spectrum more efficiently, so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

"The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April issue of *QST*.

The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2 700 Hz.

#### Band-by-Band Draft Recommendations

On **80 metres**, the committee suggests several modifications to the band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 metre RTTY/data sub band to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3 600 - 3 700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. "Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3 500 - 3 600 kHz will not improve the situation," Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 metre RTTY/data band and the 75 metre phone/image band from 3 600 to 3 650 kHz



and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are being asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- \* Shift the ACDS band segment from 3 585 - 3 600 to 3 600 - 3 615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- \* Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3 525 - 3 600 kHz to 3 650 kHz.
- \* Add 80 metre RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On **40 metres**, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7 040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7 070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide," with wide data modes - outside of ACDS - at 7 115 - 7 125 kHz. The "Guide" shows 7 070 - 7 125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7 080 - 7 125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7 100 - 7 105 kHz segment.

On **30 metres**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10,140-10,150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10,130 to 10,140 MHz.

On **20 metres**, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14,0995 to 14,1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14,1005 to 14,112 MHz segment and narrow ACDS in the 14,095 to 14,0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14,070 to 14,095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14,070 and 14,078 MHz.

On **17 metres**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18,105 to 18,110

MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18,100 to 18,105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18,110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On **15 metres**, the committee recommends that 21,070 to 21,090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21,090 to 21,100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21,100 MHz for any additional wide data activity.

The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 metre segment, where they're now limited to CW.

On **12 metres**, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24,925 to 24,930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24,920 to 24,925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24,930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On **10 metres**, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28,120 to 28,189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28,070 to 28,120 MHz.

**How to Comment.** The League has set up a web page to record members' preferences and comments, which includes links to the HF Band Planning Committee report to the ARRL Board and to Sumner's April *QST* article (and high-resolution band charts). Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may e-mail the ARRL. The comment deadline is 19 April. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.

### **No One in the Shack as Station Logs 4 200+ Contacts in ARRL DX CW Contest**

The six-person group operating as K3TN in the recent ARRL International DX Contest (CW) may have made Amateur Radio history by mounting the first completely remote-controlled multioperator contest effort.



The scattered K3TN team worked via the Internet through the station of Jack Hammett, K4VV, on Catoctin Ridge in Northern Virginia. All of K4VV's operating positions were vacant over the 21 and 22 February weekend, because the operators were elsewhere. One participant even managed to operate during the contest from *two* states - Maryland and Florida.

"No one was in the K4VV shack for the entire contest!" said Mike Lonneke, WOYR, who took part in the contest via K4VV from his own shack in Virginia. Two other operators were in North Carolina. "Perhaps this is a new category - Totally Remote (TR)." Lonneke said 3-minute timers at the remote-capable positions allow FCC requirements to be met.

The "Team K4VV" contingent made 4 224 contacts and logged 556 multipliers for a claimed score of more than 7 million points - not a Top 10 score, but respectable. For comparison, the top-scoring K3LR multi-multi operation has claimed 18,85 million points.

K4VV boasts two Telrex "Big Bertha" rotating masts that support 17 wide-spaced Yagi arrays for 10, 15, and 20 metres and a two-stack of four-element OWA Yagis on 40, plus wire antennas for 80 and 160 metres. This is not the sort of antenna farm likely found in the typical suburban neighborhoods from which the K3TN participants operated. Despite the vagaries of winter weather, the station performed well. "We had a foot of wet snowfall Saturday afternoon/evening, and the station was totally inaccessible," said John Pescatore, K3TN, in a 3830 website log post. "The ops fairly winced as they watched the on-screen direction indicators for K4VV's Big Berthas turn at a tortoise's pace in the near zero-degree cold. However, turn they did. The station played great, and band conditions were, across the board, good."

Lonneke said one member of the ARRL DX CW team, Bill Rogers, W3UL, started the contest from his home in Maryland, before taking the auto train to Florida and rushing to his condo to finish up.

Team K4VV, a group of more than 20 operators, helps to maintain and operate the station, which has become a real-world laboratory

in the to-date niche field of remotely controlled contesting. "Jack's [K4VV] health is not the best," Lonneke noted, "but he is happy to see his station - an outstanding facility - used and maintained by a group of his Amateur Radio friends."

Three of K4VV's well-equipped operating positions can be operated either from within the shack or via remote control from anywhere in the world. In 2013 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW), Tom Morton, CX7TT, who lives in near Montevideo, Uruguay, logged into one of the K4VV operating positions. Operating as W4YY at a distance of nearly 5200 miles, he managed a clean sweep. Lonneke has said that the operating experience from the remote end "is transparent."

Until recently, contacts made during such operations were ineligible for DXCC credit for either station. Changes to the DXCC Rules now allow a control operator to be outside the DXCC entity in which the radio transmitter/receiver is located. For DXCC purposes transmitter location continues to define a station's location. *CQ Magazine* recently began sponsoring an award for working 100 countries while using remote control.

In addition to Pescatore, Lonneke, and Rogers, the K3TN operators for the ARRL International DX CW were Rick Miller, N1RM, in Virginia; Jim Gulvin, W4TMO, in North Carolina, and Rowland Archer, K4XD, in North Carolina. The K3TN log was submitted under the Potomac Valley Radio Club banner.

Pescatore is hoping to gather a team of phone operators to mount a similar multi-multi effort in the ARRL International DX Contest SSB event in March.

### [There is a Place for you in the ARRL International DX Phone Contest!](#)

Set aside your CW key, and shake those dits and dahs out of your ears. It is time to get your voice in trim or to program your digital voice keyer. The SSB weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest is Saturday and Sunday, 7 and 8 March and in this major event on the radiosport calendar, the DX will be looking for stations in the US and Can-



ada <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. There are entry categories for single ops and for multi-operator teams as well as a choice of power levels in each category, from QRP to full legal limit. In other words, there is a place for Big Guns, Little Pistols and everyone in between. Excitement and enthusiasm levels will be high, and it is a terrific opportunity to boost WAS totals too.

Not only that, but the ARRL International DX Contest events offer great opportunities to expand your knowledge of MF and HF propagation and to tweak your contesting skills. The basic objective is simple: W/VE amateurs work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands. Participating DX stations work as many stations as possible on the 48 contiguous US states and Canadian provinces. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province abbreviation. DX stations send a signal report and their output power.

The action gets under way at 00:00 UTC on 7 March and continues for the next 48 hours until 23:59 UTC on 8 March. By the way, if you are planning to do this one *without* any digital voice assistance, keep those lozenges and maybe some hot tea and honey handy. A couple of 2014 participants complained afterward of hoarse throats.

Complete rules and forms are on the ARRL website [www.arrl.org/contest-rules](http://www.arrl.org/contest-rules). E-mail electronic logs (Cabrillo format) to [DXphone@arrl.org](mailto:DXphone@arrl.org) or mail paper logs to ARRL DX CW Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Logs must be received or postmarked no later than 23:59 UTC on Tuesday 8 April 2015.

### German Radio Amateurs Breathe New Life into "Orphaned" Shortwave Channel

A few radio amateurs are frustrated broadcasters, and when German national broadcaster the Deutsche Welle closed down a 500 kW shortwave broadcast transmitter near Munich, an entity headed and operated by hams applied for and was granted the va-

cant channel of 6 070 kHz in the 49 metre shortwave band. DARC Radio - which has a business association with the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) but is privately owned - now has a 10 kW broadcast station, branded "Channel 292," up and running, and a new Amateur Radio DX program will debut next month <http://www.channel292.de/>.

"After the demolition of one of the world's biggest shortwave facilities of the Deutsche Welle last year, we managed to get an official radio broadcast license for the German Amateur Radio Club and have built up a shortwave transmitter with some parts of the old 500 kW transmitter from there," said DARC Radio Project Manager Rainer Englert, DF2NU, an ARRL member and president of the Munich South Section of the DARC. "As far as we know, there is no similar ham project like this worldwide."

The Deutsche Welle used the 6 070 kHz channel until mid-2013 for European transmissions. DARC Radio hopes to fund its operating expenses by leasing airtime.

The DARC is a customer and under its banner, a weekly Amateur Radio-oriented magazine of DARC news, contest schedules, DX information, interviews, DXpedition reports, market reviews, technical hints, and "some nice old music from the '70s and '80s" will debut on Sunday 22 March at 10:00 UTC, Englert told ARRL. The program will be in German, but the RSGB has expressed interest in contributing English-language program segments, he said. The inaugural DX magazine will be repeated on Monday 23 March at 16:00 UTC.

According to the DARC, the initial March 22 broadcast will air from a 100 kW transmitter in Austria, while the repeat broadcast on 23 March will emanate from Radio DARC's 10 kW transmitter near Ingolstadt, Germany.

Rainer Ebeling, DB8QC, owns the official licensee - Intermedicom GmbH (LLC). He repurposed parts from the driver stages as well as a few transformers from the former Deutsche Welle transmitter for DARC Radio's 10 kW transmitter. "The antenna is a low-hanging, simple dipole with a very high radia-



tion angle, optimized for short-range coverage," Englert explained. The station easily covers much of Western Europe, he said and also has been heard in Russia and elsewhere, including North America.

Although its license allows full-time service, the station has mostly been on the air from 07:00 until 17:00 UTC. The station airs "The Golden Days of Offshore Radio" weekdays at 07:00 - 09:00 UTC, with offerings that evoke the era of pirate stations RNI, Radio Caroline, Radio Veronica, and others. In fact, the Channel 292 brand recalls the Channel 192 pirate station of the 1960s and 1970s. It also airs programs in Dutch and Spanish.

Englert said others, in addition to DARC, have been leasing airtime - currently filling about 20 hours per week. DARC Radio's hourly rate is rock bottom - about \$17.50 US. "This rate really only covers expenditure like electric power and the write-off of the power amplifier," he said. "The transmitter sucks almost 40 kW out of the grid at 100 percent modulation."

"The orphaned shortwave frequencies hardly interest anyone these days," allowed the DARC. "Not so radio amateurs, who will take advantage of these new possibilities to also get broadcasting licenses."

All reception reports to Channel 292 will be answered with a QSL card [radio@darcd.de](mailto:radio@darcd.de). Outgoing cards will go out via the DARC QSL bureau.

## African Islands

### IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Madeira, CT9. Once again, Rosel, DL3KWR, and Hardy, L3KWF, will be active as CT9/DL3KWR and CT9/DL3KWF from Madeira, AF-014, from 5 March to 1 April. They plan to operate mostly on CW with a focus on 12, 17 and 30 metres. QSL via home calls. E-mail requests for bureau cards can be sent to

[dl3kwr@darcd.de](mailto:dl3kwr@darcd.de) or [dl3kwf@darcd.de](mailto:dl3kwf@darcd.de) respectively.

Diego Garcia Island, VQ. Bob, N7XR, will be active again from Diego Garcia Island (AF-006), Chagos Archipelago from 19 to 27 March 2015 as VQ9XR. Bob says, "I will be operating on 80 to 10 m with power. I will also be operating on 60 m CW; the British Republic is modifying the license to allow operation. 160 m is possible, no promises. 6 m is out, no antenna. Operating on SSB, CW and RTTY. No internet access is available in the area I operate from. I check e-mails once in the evening IF I can gain access. Most of the time it is extremely slow. QSL via Club Log or direct. No bureau, LoTW or eQSL."

Cape Verde, D4. Lukas, HB9EBT will be active as D44TEG from Sao Tiago (AF-005), Cape Verde between 15 and 27 March. He will operate CW on 40 to 10 metres. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Reunion Island, FR. Guy, F5MNW will operate CW only as FR/F5MNW from Reunion Island (AF-016) from 19 March to 14 April. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Tromelin Island. The Tromelin Island 2014 Story can be read online and it is possible to order the hardcover book. "We choose to write a report which would tell in detail all that one would like to know about such an adventure: the 'behind the scenes' of FT4TA!", the team says. "In these days of DQRM, anonymous and nasty comments, there is no better way to answer but explain and try to sensitize, show the work done for so an ambitious project". Please visit <http://blur.by/1KGFCIT> for the French version and <http://blur.by/1LziqfS> for the English version.

## African DX

Kenya, 5Z. Nick, G3RWF plans activity from Nairobi, Kenya, as 5Z4LS between 5 and 18 March. He will be active on 80 to 10 m, mostly CW. Nick will participate in the ARRL DX SSB

Contest on 7 and 8 March and the BERU Contest on 14 and 15 March. QSL via home call. Club Log will provide an online log search.

Egypt, SU. Ivan, OM3CGN, is active as SU9IG from Cairo until 15 June 2016. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with varying power levels for each mode. QSL to home call.

Mauritania, 5T. Jean, 5T0JL (F3JL/ON8RA), will use the special call sign 5T2MM between 17 to 20 April. Look for activity in the CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest (18 and 19 April). QSL via PY4KL. For more details and updates, see <http://www.grz.com/db/5T2MM>

Uganda, 5X. Alan, G3XAQ will be active as 5X1XA from Uganda between 11 and 18 March. He will operate CW mostly on the high bands and "especially in the new SARL Africa DX Contest" that will run from 12 UTC on 14 March to 12 UTC on the 15th (exchange: RST and serial number). QSL via G3SWH. Complete information on the Africa All Mode International DX Contest can be found in the SARL Contest Manual at [www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp).

Eritrea. The SEISA/Foundation for Global Children has announced that, after "many months of careful planning and negotiations," their Eritrea Project 2015 will include an amateur radio DXpedition to be conducted from Asmara between 6 and 17 March. A multi-national team of nine operators (JH1AJT, N6PSE, DJ9ZB, JA1TRC, JH1NBN, JH1OGX, NQ7R, RA9USU and WD5COV) will be active with four stations with amplifiers, beam antennas for the high bands (10 to 20 m) and four verticals for the low bands (30 to 160 m). The call sign will be issued upon arrival. QSL via MOURX. PayPal donations can be sent to [jh1ajt@fgc.or.jp](mailto:jh1ajt@fgc.or.jp).

Dem Rep of Congo, 9Q. The Radio Amateur Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ARAC) has invited the "Italian DXpedition Team" (IDT) for a short stay in Kinshasa

during March. The IDT will be active as 9Q0AR between 10 and 25 March. QSL via I2YSB only direct. A OQRS is available via their Web page. As usual, the official Web site is <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt>. A dedicated 9Q0HQ Survey form has been added to the Web page. The results will be used in the planning of activity on the various bands. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. For information, questions or skeds on the 6 m band please contact ONLY the pilot station Sergio, IKOFTA. For info, questions or problems with the DXpedition LOG, please contact ONLY the pilot station Arturo, IK7JWY. For e-mail messages to the pilot stations see QRZ.com. Please DO NOT SEND E-mail messages about the DXpedition to the Team. They will NOT answer. For updates about the DXpedition, please visit the official forum at

<http://www.hamradioweb.org/forums/showthread.php?t=25856>. If a suitable internet connection is available, the online real-time log will be at

[http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline/default.asp?ID\\_dxpedition=38](http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline/default.asp?ID_dxpedition=38)

## HISTORY

### History this week

Starting Monday 2 March 2015



1223 BC - The oldest recorded eclipse occurred on a date on a clay tablet from the ancient city of Ugarit, Syria

1618 - Johannes Kepler formulated his Third Law of Planetary Motion

1661 - The Royal Society, London, England, elected Sir Robert Moray as their first president

1663 - Marion and Prince Edward Islands are discovered by Barent Barentzoon Ham, nothing happened for the next 109 years when Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne rediscovered them, thinking he had found Antarctica!

1876 - Alexander Graham Bell patented an "Improvement in Telegraphy" (No 174 465) the Telephone

1891 - The London to Paris telephone connection opens



1899 - The SS "R F Matthews" collided with the lightship, which radioed the lighthouse ashore to get assistance. This was the first time ever a distress call was transmitted by radio from a ship at sea!

1977 - The first Freon-cooled Cray-1 super-computer, costing \$19 000 000, was shipped to Los Alamos Laboratories

2015 - The SA Armour Museum visits Sandstone Estates at Ficksburg in preparation for Stars of Sandstone 2015

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 2 to 9 March 2015

#### ARS Spartan Sprint

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 5 March 2015

E-mail logs to: [spartansprint@yahoo.com](mailto:spartansprint@yahoo.com)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.arsgrp.blogspot.com/>

#### AGCW YL-CW Party

19:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: YL; OM; SWL

Exchange: YL: RST, serial no, "/YL/" and name;

OM: RST, serial no, "/" and name

QSO Points: 1 point per YL-OM QSO; 2 points per YL-YL QSO; 0 points per OM-OM QSO;

Extra Points: 1 point per country worked

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points and extra points

Submit logs by: March 31, 2015

E-mail logs to: [dl6kcr@web.de](mailto:dl6kcr@web.de)

Mail logs to: Dr. Roswitha Otto, DL6KCR, St Nikolaus Str 26, D-52396 Heimbach, Germany

Find rules at:

<http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/yl-cw-party>

#### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 4 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 5 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 7 March 2015

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

#### AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest

23:00 UTC 4 March to 23:00 UTC 5 March and 23:00 UTC 7 March to 23:00 UTC 8 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, Eqpt Type and Eqpt Year

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 5 April 2015

E-mail logs to: [w1zb@arrl.net](mailto:w1zb@arrl.net)

Mail logs to: Jerry Reine, W1ZB, 5 Tobey Lane, Andover, MA 01810, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/awa-john-rollins-memorial-dx-contest.html>

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest

18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 5 March

Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 19 March 2015

Upload log at:

[http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 6 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 7 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

Get on the **RaDAR....and GO!**



NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL International DX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 7 March to 24:00 UTC 8 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Unlimited - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts;

QRP: 5 watts



Exchange: W/VE: RS and state or province; non-W/VE: RS and power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 3 points per QSO  
 Multipliers: W/VE: Each DXCC country once per band; Non-W/VE: Each state, District of Columbia, VE province/territory once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 April 2015  
 E-mail logs to: [DXPhone@arrl.org](mailto:DXPhone@arrl.org)  
 Mail logs to: ARRL Intl DX Contest, Phone, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA  
 Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint  
 06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 7 March  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 40, 20 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)  
 Work stations: Once per band per period  
 QSO Points: 1 point per km  
 Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points  
 Submit logs by: 14 March 2015  
 E-mail logs to: [ru-qrp-club@mail.ru](mailto:ru-qrp-club@mail.ru)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon  
 12:00 UTC 7 March to 24:00 UTC 8 March  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Max operating hours: 24  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points  
 Submit logs by: 15 March 2015  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/)

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship  
 18:00 - 20:59 UTC (Low Band) and 21:00 - 23:59 UTC (Low Band) 7 March and 08:00 - 10:59 UTC (High Band) and 11:00 - 13:59 UTC (High Band) 8 March  
 Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op Multi-Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op Multi-Band  
 Exchange: 2-letter regional abbreviation (state, province, canton, etc.,) and serial no (restart serial no for high band)  
 Work stations: Once per band per period  
 QSO Points: 2 points per QSO; 10 points per new region once per band per period  
 Multipliers: (none)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total points  
 Submit logs by: 23 March 2015  
 E-mail logs to: [krs@model.poltava.ua](mailto:krs@model.poltava.ua)  
 Mail logs to: George Ignatov (UT1HT), PO Box 87, Kremenchug-21 39621, Ukraine  
 Find rules at:  
<http://uarl.com.ua/openrtty/2015-rules/rtty2015e.txt>

UBA Spring CW Contest  
 07:00 - 11:00 UTC 8 March  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80 m Only  
 Classes: Single; SWL  
 Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: ON: RST, serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RST and serial no  
 QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station  
 Multipliers: Each UBA Section  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 March 2015

E-mail logs to: [ubaspring@uba.be](mailto:ubaspring@uba.be)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest>

DARC 10-Metre Digital Contest

11:00 - 17:00 UTC 8 March

Mode: RTTY, Amtor, Clover, PSK31, Pactor

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op; SWL

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each WAE/DCXX area; Each W/VE call area

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 March 2015

E-mail logs to: [do1npf@darc.de](mailto:do1npf@darc.de)

Mail logs to: Peter Frank, DO1NPF, Postfach 11 19, 90515 Altdorf, Germany

Find rules at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona/teilnahmebedingungen/>

### Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 11 March

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 11 March, 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 12 March

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 11 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 13 March

RSGB Commonwealth Contest, 10:00 UTC 14 March to 10:00 UTC 15 March

F9AA Cup, SSB, 12:00 UTC 14 March to 12:00 UTC 15 March

All Africa International DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 14 March to 12:00 UTC 15 March

AGCW QRP Contest, 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 14 March

EA PSK63 Contest, 16:00 UTC 14 March to 16:00 UTC 15 March

TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, 18:00 UTC 14 March to 07:59 UTC 15 March

Idaho QSO Party, 19:00 UTC 14 March to 19:00 UTC 15 March

North American Sprint, RTTY, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 15 March

Wisconsin QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 15 March to 01:00 UTC 16 March

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 March

Bucharest Contest, 18:00 - 20:59 UTC 16 March

CLARA HF Contest, 17:00 UTC 17 March to 17:00 UTC 18 March 17:00 UTC 21 March to 17:00 UTC 22 March

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin

